

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
U.S. 09/904,154
Filed: July 12, 2001

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response cancels claim 1 without prejudice, amends claims 2, 4, 6, 9, 14 and 63 and adds new claims 69-74. With this Amendment and Response, claims 2-4, 6, 8-34 and 63-74 are pending in this application. No further fees are believed due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 11-0855.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Action states that claims 16-19 and 64-68 are allowed. It further indicates that claims 6, 9-13, and 20-34 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have followed the Action's recommendations for placing the application in condition for allowance as follows:

Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of base claim 1. It is therefore allowable, as are claims 2-4, 8, 14-15 and 63 which ultimately depend from it.

Claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of base claim 1. It is therefore allowable, as are claims 10-13 and 69-74 which ultimately depend from it. The subject matter of allowable claims 2, 3, 4, 14, 15 and 63 has been incorporated into new claims 69-74, respectively. New claims 69-74 are therefore allowable.

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Claims 16-19 are allowed by the Action, but claims 20-34 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 20-34 are ultimately dependent from allowed claim 19. Therefore, claims 20-34 are also allowable.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

The Action rejects claims 1-4, 8 and 63 as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, obvious over Cervin. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and ask that it be withdrawn. Claim 1 has been cancelled, thereby rendering the Action's rejection of this claim moot. Amended claims 2-4, 8, and 63 all depend from allowable amended claim 6 (*see supra* Part I) and are therefore allowable.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

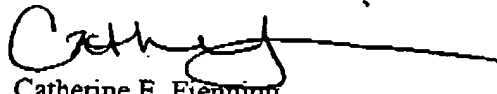
The Action also claims 14 and 15 as being unpatentable as obvious over Cervin in view of Grimsland. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and ask that it be withdrawn. Amended claim 14 and original claim 15 both depend from allowable claim 6 (*see supra* Part I) and are therefore allowable.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-4, 6, 8-34, and 63-74 are in condition for immediate allowance, and request early notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,


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